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for any failure in that direction. A city can grant such a restrictive charter that it need not accept a water supply, at the outset, which is impure. By actual statistics it costs cities from two to five times as much to build and run their own water and gas works as it does when such enterprises are in the hands of individuals. By giving such enterprises to their citizens, they also get rid of the chief sources of corruption and theft. The English doctrine is that municipalities shall not enter into any business that private individuals will undertake. The theory of all governments, like ancient Rome, Russia, etc., is to monopolize or at least control all these matters. The water-works of Rome were built by slave labor and run by the government. This was largely true of Paris, St. Petersburg, other continental cities, in China and Mexico, while free London is supplied by private companies. The popular American cry seems to be for the government to own the railroads, telegraph and telephone systems. This is an encroachment on the theory of our institutions, and any legislation, including inter-state commerce, which goes beyond the province of police control, is a step toward the governments of ancient Rome and modern China. Napoleon's ideas of government left nothing for the people. Henry George's theory, carried to its last analysis, is to bring a Chinese state of affairs, with a fountain in a monarch, with everything vested in the people in common from a socialistic point of view. The result of this in time would be a race wholly devoid of ambition for personal aims. Henry George should remove to China, where is a true exemplification of his theories. Unless our municipal, State and National governments are made to give the enterprises to private individuals which they have usurped from the people, we shall not only continue to have impure water, enforcing unconscious suicide on all citizens, but also, in time, a centralized government wherein the citizens are void of personal ambition and all is one mass or family, with a central figure, like the Emperor of China, pulling the string.

WILLIAM HOSEA BALLOU.

II.

ZOOLOGICAL GAME PRESERVES.

THE rapid development of the South African colonies is playing havoc with the supply stations of our zoological gardens. Gnocs and sable antelopes have retreated to the wilderness of the upper Zambesi; baboons are no longer found in the neighborhood of Cape Town, and before the end of the next twenty years the agents of Barnum & Co. will have to fall back upon the villages of Brahmini, Hindostan, where some fifty varieties of monkeys still enjoy all the privileges of a New York ward politician. Their impudence and digestive abilities make them a fearful nuisance, but their daily offenses are condoned on religious principles, for the sake of their sainted relative, the god-ape Hanuman. They levy a regular tribute on the produce of every farm, but are always on the lookout for extra bonanzas, and invade even the camps of the British garrison towns, where they congregate at the tent wagons of a new commissary sergeant like office-seekers at the sanctum of a new Mayor.

F. L. FREMONT.

III.

OUR RODENT RIVALS.

PROFESSOR BURMEISTERS, in his work on the Fauna of Northern Brazil, describes the frightful insect-plagues of the Rio Negro, and remarks that "men should not presume to call themselves the lords of creation till they devise more